

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

The following listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application.

LISTING OF CLAIMS

1. (Currently Amended) A catalytic converter assembly comprising;
catalytic conversion components;
a one piece cast metal catalytic converter housing with an integral end cone ~~along one end thereof and, said converter housing including an end wall having an opening therein for receiving~~ inserting the conversion components along another end; ~~and~~
a mantle having a hollow body portion which is disposed within and extends substantially the entire length of the converter housing for receiving the catalytic conversion components, said mantle having a transverse lip extending outwardly from said body portion; and
a second end cone positioned against said mantle lip and which is welded to said catalytic converter housing such that a weld joint is formed ~~between~~ along the junction of said housing and said second end cone.
2. (Cancelled)
3. (Original) The catalytic converter assembly of claim 2, wherein said catalytic converter housing with integral end cone casting is formed from SiMo iron.

4. (Currently Amended) The catalytic converter assembly of claim 1, wherein said integral end cone includes a ~~muffler-mounting flange~~ for a muffler disposed along an end opposite the weld joint.
5. (Cancelled)
6. (Currently Amended) The catalytic converter assembly of claim 1, wherein said weld joint provides a substantially air tight seal between said catalytic converter housing and ~~a~~-said second end cone.
7. (Currently Amended) The catalytic converter assembly of claim 1, wherein said second end cone integrally extends from an exhaust manifold, wherein said second end cone and said ~~second~~-exhaust manifold are cast as a single piece.
8. (Original) The catalytic converter assembly of claim 1, wherein said catalytic converter housing includes an annular flange having an inwardly angled portion and said second end cone includes a complimentary annular flange having an inwardly angled portion, whereby upon joining said second end cone to said converter housing an annular recess is provided to define said weld joint.
9. (Currently Amended) The catalytic converter assembly of claim 1, wherein said catalytic converter further comprises a mounting mat disposed adjacent an inner wall ~~defining said opening and a filtering substrate disposed within said mounting mat~~ of the

connector housing on one side and adjacent said hollow body portion of the mantle on another side.

10-12 (Cancelled)

13. (Currently Amended) The catalytic converter assembly of claim-12_1, wherein said catalytic converter housing includes an annular flange having an inwardly angled portion and said second end cone includes a complimentary annular flange having an inwardly angled portion, whereby upon joining said second end cone to said converter housing an annular recess is provided to define said weld joint.

14. (Currently Amended) A method of manufacturing a catalytic converter assembly comprising the steps of :

- a) providing catalytic conversion components;
- b) providing a one piece catalytic converter housing and integral end cone, said housing including an opening ~~for receiving through with~~ said catalytic conversion components are inserted;
- c) providing a mantle having a hollow body portion which is disposed within and extends substantially the entire length of the converter housing for receiving the catalytic conversion components, said mantle having a transverse lip extending outwardly from said body portion;
- e)d) disposing the catalytic converter components within said mantle through the opening of said catalytic converter housing;

~~d)e)~~ _____ attaching a second end cone portion to said catalytic converter housing to capture the catalytic converter within said catalytic converter assembly; and

~~e)f)~~ _____ welding the second end cone to said one piece catalytic converter housing and integral end cone to form the catalytic converter assembly.

15. (Cancelled)

16. (Original) The method according to claim 14, wherein said second end cone integrally extends from an exhaust manifold, wherein said second end cone and said exhaust manifold are cast as a single piece.